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15 Apr 55

**MEMORANDUM:**

**SUBJECT: CAKRANI, Kadri**

1. The following information concerning the subject of your inquiry was transmitted to the Director of Intelligence, WDGS, in a memorandum dated 30 September 1947:

a. According to numerous reports, Kadri CAKRANI, a leading member of the Balli Kombetar and its military representative during the German occupation, has been charged with collaboration with the Germans and for this reason is regarded as a war criminal by the present regime in Albania. In an article published in Bashkimi on 2 June 1945, Enver HODHA, Prime Minister of Albania, criticized Allied policy, which was permitting major war criminals, among whom Kadri CAKRANI was mentioned, to circulate freely in Italy, pointing out that such treatment 'constitutes an injustice and at the same time an offense to the Albanian people who have made such sacrifices for the common cause'.

b. Information of 2 August 1946 states that during an operation against the Communists in Albania in 1944, Subject found five American nurses in the Berat area. These nurses were taken into custody for three days and were brought to Dukat in the Valona area, whence, after certain difficulties, they were successfully returned to Allied territory.

c. The following information on Subject dated 27 September 1946 is contained in the interrogation report of Otto KROESSEL, who was with the German Intelligence Service in Albania.

As of March 1946, Subject was a refugee in the Albanian camp at Ostia near Rome, Italy. Under King ZOG he was imprisoned as a common criminal. During the Italian occupation of Albania, he helped the Italians against the partisans; and during the German occupation, he was military representative of the Balli Kombetar. Spurred

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states that Subject was supplied with weapons by the Germans, but that he did not fight the partisans wholeheartedly and is alleged to have sold the latter part of the German-supplied equipment. CAKRANI is charged with having practiced extortions against the civil population along the Albanian coast and with being responsible in February 1944 for the killing of about thirty Greek Orthodox Albanians, who were accused of having Communist sympathies. Because of this, Subject has been listed as the No. 2 Albanian war criminal by the present regime. At the end of 1944 he escaped by sea to Italy. Subject is described as an anti-Communist by necessity and a politically active member of the Balli Kombetar.

2. The following information was transmitted to the United States Air Force Office of Special Investigations on 17 October 1951 in reply to a request for name check dated 26 September 1951:

- a. Information dated mid-July 1949 lists Nadri CAKRANI as an Albanian refugee in Syria belonging to the National Democratic Front (Balli Kombetar).
- b. CAKRANI was elected a council member of the Ali KLISSURA right wing faction of the Balli Kombetar which split from the main party following an assembly convoked by the KLISSURA group at Bagmolli, Italy, in mid-August 1950.
- c. In early January 1951 the American Consulate in Beirut, Syria, received the following letter, in Italian, from ☐ c/o General Delivery, Naples, Italy. It was mailed on 29 December 1950:

"Nadri CAKRANI or TEAKRANI, Albanian, being kept by the IRO in Syria, is about to leave for the United States. He was Military Commander for Albania in the Balli Kombetare (National Front) from 1942 to 1944. At his orders was a force of thirty thousand men in armed hands, which collaborated with the German troops, burned many villages, and innumerable were the human victims they killed. The grade of colonel in the SS was conferred upon him in which organization he was decorated by HITLER. His pseudonym was 'Principi'. As the surrender approached he tried to regain territory; he therefore hid three American nurses who had landed in Albanian territory, and protected them by hiding them. This single action cannot cancel out hundreds of crimes

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previously committed by him. He is a war criminal, a former Nazi, dangerous for public security, and his place is not in the United States."

Subsequent to the receipt of the letter, the American Consulate in Beirut advised that CAKRANI had not applied for a United States visa in Beirut.

c. Subject's membership in the KLISSURA wing of the Balli Kombetar reflects a conservative but not necessarily anti-democratic political orientation, since the rift in Balli Kombetar resulted from the protest of many members against what they considered a socialist orientation of the organization's leadership.

d. Subject's classification as a war criminal by the present Albanian Government should be evaluated in the light of similar classification of most of the important war-time anti-Communist leaders. The extent of Subject's collaboration with the Germans cannot be determined from file traces; however, it should be stated that many other nationalistic and pro-democratic Albanians did collaborate with the German war occupation authorities because the latter were less feared than were the leaders of the Communist-dominated National Liberation Front.

e. In regard to the denunciation contained in para. 1, c, above, the information contained therein should be treated with reserve, as probably emanating from a political enemy of Subject.

3. A memorandum prepared in answer to a request for name check dated 30 October 1951 from OSI (Air Force) gave the following additional information obtained from a usually reliable source:

Subject, a former Albanian landowner, is the son of Heiredin and Shefika CHIAJ, and was born in Cakran, Albania, on 28 February 1903. Preliminary results of an investigation conducted in the field reveal that Subject entered Italy at Brindisi in December 1944 as an Albanian refugee. He was admitted to Transit Camp No. 1 in Bari, and was subsequently moved to the transit camp of Santa Maria di Leuca (Lecce province). During this latter period Subject was reported as a member of Balli Kombetar, an anti-Communist Albanian emigre party. In August 1945, Subject went to the Italian Ministry of Interior to obtain a permit to live out of camp, which Source believes was not granted; however, the records of

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the Rome Questura show that Subject was granted Sojourn Permit No. 4603, issued in Rome, Italy, on 30 August 1945, which would indicate that Subject did not in fact live in an IRO camp. Subject remained in Rome about one month and lived at Pensione Monaco at Via Flavia 84. He then transferred to Ostia (Via Aldo Brandini 2) with his family, including his wife Mahrie Mufti, and his children Fatime, born in 1928; Shpresa, born in 1943; and Ismet, born in 1945. According to this same report, Subject and his family left for an unknown locality in September 1945. In November 1945 Subject and his family were located at Camp No. 14 in Bari, and then at Camp No. 31 in Barletta. Subject has relatives living at Rivanazzano (Pavia province).

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